

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/822,564 Examiner Laurie Ries	VENOLIA, GINA DANIELLE Art Unit 2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- This communication is responsive to Interview, conducted 9/6/2006.
- The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9-11, and 18-31, renumbered as 1-2, 4-9, 11-15, 10, 3, 16-22, respectively.
- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - All
 - Some*
 - None
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
- Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.
- A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
- CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
- Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- Notice of Informal Patent Application
- Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
- Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- Other _____

William L. Bashore
WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. This office action is responsive to Interview, conducted 6 September 2006, to the Original Application, filed 30 March 2001. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9-11, and 18-31 are now allowed.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Linda Ji; Reg. No. 49,027 on 6 September 2006.
4. The application has been amended as follows:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a user-desired word into a computer, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) having the computer select a character in an alphabetical range;

- (b) having the computer select a word as a function of the selected character, the selected word having a character sequence;
- (c) presenting the word to the user;
- (d) receiving an indication from the user indicating whether a user-desired character of the desired word is alphabetically preceding or succeeding the computer-selected character or whether the computer-selected character matches the user-desired character; and
- (e) adjusting the range of characters or retaining the computer-selected character based on the user's indication;

wherein if step (d) includes receiving an indication that the computer-selected character is the user-desired character, step (e) comprises retaining the computer-selected character, and further comprising step (f) of advancing to the next character of the character sequence, if any;

wherein step (a) includes having the computer select the character as a function of a probability of the character in the range of characters; and

further comprising successively repeating at least steps (a) and (d),

wherein when repeating step (a), the computer selects the character as a function of the adjusted range of characters.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein if step (d) includes receiving the indication that the user-desired character is alphabetically

preceding or alphabetically succeeding the computer-selected character, step (e) comprises adjusting the range of characters so that the range of characters is approximately bounded by the selected character.

3. Cancelled

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, and further comprising step (g) of receiving an indication to accept a set of characters.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein step (g) includes receiving an indication to remove at least one character from the set of retained characters.

6. Cancelled

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) includes having the computer select the word as a function of a probability of the word.

8. Cancelled

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 81, wherein successively repeating at least steps (a) and (d) occurs when a new word cannot be selected in step (b).

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 81, wherein when repeating step

(a) the computer selects the character as a function of a set of retained characters.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein step (a) includes

having the computer select the character as a function of an N-gram model.

12-17. Cancelled

18. (Currently amended) A computing device comprising:

an input device;

an output device;

memory storing a lexicon;

a processor accessing the memory; and

a module including instructions executable by the processor to perform the steps of:

(a) having the computing device selecting a character in a range of characters arranged in alphabetical order;

(b) having the computing device selecting a word from the lexicon as a function of the selected character, the word having a character sequence;

(c) presenting the word to the user through the output device; and

(d) receiving an indication in response to the presented word from the user through the input device pertaining to the selected character to indicate whether the selected character matches or fails to match a user-desired character;

(e) adjusting the range of characters or retaining the computer-selected character based on the user's indication;

wherein if step (d) includes receiving an indication that the computer-selected character matches the user-desired character, retaining the computer-selected character, and further comprising step (f) of advancing to the next character of the character sequence, if any;

wherein step (a) includes having the computer select the character as a function of a probability of the character in the range of characters; and further comprising successively repeating at least steps (a) and (d), wherein when repeating step (a), the computer selects the character as a function of the adjusted range of characters.

19. (Original) The computing device of claim 18 wherein the input device comprises isolated buttons indicative of different responses.

20. (Original) The computing device of claim 19 wherein at least some of the buttons are indicative of a subset of the alphabet.

21. (Original) The computing device of claim 20 wherein the computing device comprises a telephone.

22. (Original) The computing device of claim 19 wherein the computing device comprises a pager.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) or step (b) are based on probability of words in a lexicon.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, and further comprising repeating steps (a) to (e) using the adjusted alphabetical range of characters.

25. (Currently amended) The ~~computer input~~ computing device of claim 18, and further comprising instructions for adjusting the range of characters when the user indicates that the selected character is not the user-desired character.

26. (Currently amended) The ~~computer input~~ computing device of claim 18, and further comprising advancing to the next character in the character sequence when the user indicates that the selected character is the user-desired character.

27. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium including computer-executable instructions to perform the steps of:

- (a) selecting a character in a alphabetical range of characters;
- (b) selecting a word based on the selected character;
- (c) rendering the selected word, the word having a character sequence;
- (d) receiving an indication from a user interface in response to the selected word, the indication indicating whether a user-desired character is alphabetically preceding or succeeding the selected character or whether the computer-selected character matches the user-desired character; and
- (e) adjusting the range of characters or retaining the selected character based on
~~the user's indication~~ indication received from the user interface;
wherein if step (d) includes receiving an indication that the selected word matches the user-desired character, retaining the computer-selected character, and further comprising step (f) of advancing to the next character of the character sequence, if any;

wherein step (a) includes selecting the character as a function of a probability of the character in the range of characters; and
further comprising successively repeating at least steps (a) and (d),
wherein when repeating step (a), selecting the character as a function of
the adjusted range of characters.

28. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein receiving an indication comprises receiving an indication that the selected character is not the user's desired character or matches the user's desired character.

29. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 28, and further comprising identifying a new alphabetical range approximately bounded by the previously selected character.

30. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein receiving an indication comprises receiving an indication that the selected character is the user's desired character, and further comprising advancing to the next character, if any, of the selected word's character sequence.

31. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 30, and further comprising receiving an indication that the next character is not part of the user's desired word.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laurie Ries whose telephone number is (571) 272-4095. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at (571) 272-4136.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LR

William S. Bashore
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